

THE ROYAL SOCIETY,

BURLINGTON HOUSE, LONDON. W.

address 10 Southwell Gardens
South Kensington London
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amicable relations with any
American botanist who has
the means of supplying a
large proportion of the plants
of the Rocky Mountains &
the S.W. territories of the U.S.
I have (chiefly by purchase)
had a considerable proportion
of the plants of the Eastern
& central states, and I had
a pretty good set of Coulter's
duplicates from California
(not his Mexican) but with
these exceptions and Bourgeau's
plants collected with Palliser's
exploring expⁿ in British America

My dear Dr Gray

It is so long since I have
seen you that you must have
nearly forgotten my existence -
I remember being severely
disappointed by missing you
in Italy where I lived for
the greater part of nine years
returning to fix my head quarters
in London only in 1869 -
Although political life
and various other pursuits

have very much interfered
with my doing any efficient
botanical work I have never
~~given~~ lost my interest in that
pursuit & since I accompanied
our mutual friend Dr Hooker
to Morocco I have been (rather
slowly) putting together materials
for a small work now nearly
ready which I suppose may
be entitled *Primitiae Florae
Maroccanae*, and which I
hope to send you before the end
of this year - It has been delayed
by several long absences from
England.

My immediate object in writing
is with reference to the distribution

of the duplicates of our Morocco
journey which I have partly
completed & which I intend to
connect with the distributions
of some portions of the large mass
of duplicates in my possession.

I know that Dr Hooker means
to send you one of the best
sets of our Morocco plants
and I take it for granted
that you have received
not only the published sets
of Bourgeau - Balansa
Hedreich - H. de Pavillon ^{and Kralik}
^{but also those of other botanists}
others who have done so
much ^{of late years} to complete the Flora
of the Mediterranean region.
I should like to establish

I have none of the special
Flora of what may be called
the outlying portions of N. America

If among your friends you
know of any one able & willing
to supply my lacunae I think I
can safely promise to give a full
equivalent - chiefly in plants
of the Mediterranean region,
including a large proportion of
the rarest species of the Alps &
Pyrenees. Every one with a Herbarium
must have received many times
over the characteristic plants
of those ranges but even in
good herbaria there are large
numbers of desiderata owing
to the fact that so many species
are extremely scarce in the
wild state.

I feel sure that I could make up as many as 2000 species without including common & widely spread plants -

I must tell you at the same time that my early experience of exchanges with the U. States was all on one side. I twice sent pretty good parcels including several hundred species but did not receive a single specimen in return - Of course the same thing happens elsewhere now & then, but I should not like to take the trouble of making up a large parcel without getting a fair return -

I have many times thought of making a run across the Atlantic with

the desire of seeing the Rocky Mountain & Sierra Nevada ranges and my desire was stimulated by the pleasant account my friend W. E. Forster gave me of his tour in the autumn of 1874, but there have been obstacles in the way & I don't know that I shall ever manage it - In any case I hope we may have the pleasure of seeing you in England before long.

Believe me very sincerely yours
John Ball

Dr Asa Gray

Lc - Kc - Kc

P.S. I began this in Hooker's room at Kew but finish it in my own house